
Have You Heard the News?

Program Strengthens Project Management for Virginia — Project Cost Avoidance & Management Excellence for Virginia—

February 2, 2004

Poor project management and oversight of project development has had significant financial consequences for the State—at least \$75 million on failed development efforts and \$28 million in cost overruns, according to a November 2000 review by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) on information technology systems development and procurement by state agencies. As an investment in cost avoidance, and an example of VITA's commitment to operational excellence, the Project Manager Development Program (PMDP) was launched in October 2003.

The PMDP provides project managers throughout the state with the tools, training, and resources to help them complete projects with major IT components on time and on budget. The PMDP satisfies the Code of Virginia's mandate for establishing standards for project manager (PM) qualification, selection, and training, and also creates a dynamic, comprehensive, full-service PM identification and training program.

The PMDP is a highly successful program, establishing uniform PM qualification standards across the State, qualification testing, cost-effective training, a pool of qualified PMs, and access to PM-related tools and resources. As of January 20th, 552 individuals from 78 agencies and 7 consulting companies have established records in the program or enrolled in overview training. To date, 376 people have completed mandatory Commonwealth PM Overview training.

State project managers have welcomed the opportunities the PMDP offers in professional growth, establishing cooperative relationships, and the opportunity to share and learn from other project managers. Next steps for VITA's PMDP include establishing a mentoring component, sponsoring seminars, developing tailored training programs, and promulgating the PMDP Clearinghouse.

An integral component of the PMDP is its corresponding Web page, <http://www.vita.virginia.gov/ittrain/pmdev/pmdev.cfm>. The PMDP Web page provides information on PM qualification standards, access to qualification testing, cost-effective training, a PM information clearinghouse, and dates for future Overview training sessions. For additional information regarding VITA's PMDP, please contact Mike Sandridge at michael.sandridge@vita.virginia.gov.

The creation of VITA by the 2003 General Assembly is intended to yield significant savings for the Commonwealth, and increased efficiencies and service improvements to the state's technology infrastructure.

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